

Q&A about Early SNAP Benefits

Q: Has CT chosen to go forward with early issuance of February 2019 SNAP benefits?

A: Yes. The Department of Social Services is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service and other partners to go forward with early issuance of February benefits to all eligible households.

Q: When will the benefits be available for use by households?

A: February SNAP benefits will be available in Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) accounts by Sunday, January 20, 2019. Enrollees use their ATM-style EBT card for authorized food purchases at supermarkets, groceries, farmers' markets and other outlets.

Q: Will households receive their benefits over a 3-day period, based on alphabetical order of names, like they normally do?

A: No. Due to the shortened timeframe, all benefits will be deposited in all households' EBT accounts on the same day.

Q: Regardless of when households access February SNAP benefits—whether early or at the usual time during the month—will EBT cards work for SNAP benefits throughout February?

A: Yes. There is no need to access February benefits early.

Q: How will DSS let households know that they are getting their February benefits early?

A: We are sending a special mailing to all SNAP-eligible households notifying them that they will receive their February benefits early. A copy of the notice can be found at www.ct.gov/snap. We will also be placing messaging on the DSS ConneCT client portal (MyAccount), emails to MyAccount users, fliers in all of our field office lobbies, and the TV screens located in all field office lobbies.

Q: Are these extra benefits or bonus benefits?

A: These are February's benefits being deposited early to ensure their availability during the federal government shutdown.

Q: Will households still see a benefits deposit into their account the first week of February?

A: No. There will not be another deposit in early February, because the February benefits are being deposited into enrollees' EBT accounts early, by January 20. It's important for households to plan their food budgets accordingly to make SNAP benefits last through February.

Q: Can households still apply for benefits or complete renewals in February?

A: Yes. DSS will continue to operate under normal procedures going forward. Households can apply for benefits and are encouraged to complete their periodic review forms/renewals and interviews, as well as to return necessary documents as they normally would.



Q&A about Early SNAP Benefits

Q: What other resources are available to individuals needing food assistance?

A: There are over 300 food banks, pantries, shelters, etc., operating in the State of Connecticut. A listing of food pantries and emergency food assistance locations in your area can be obtained by calling 2-1-1 (toll-free) or you can visit the 2-1-1 website at www.211ct.org.

[CT DSS, 1-16-19]

